SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

JEFF. DAVIS AND THE "LOST CAUSE." From the N. Y. Times.

Many persons may feel surprised that the "long-headed" members of the Democratic party do not contrive to silence Mr. Jefferson Davis. But the fact is that Mr. Davis is too much for them. He represents, as Louis Napoleon used to say of himself, a "cause and a defeat;" and the Southern people like him on that account, and prefer to hear him croak about their "cause" rather than listen to the unpalatable advice of Mr. John Quincy Adams. It is only another illustration of the insuperable difficulty which the Democrats have to face-the difficulty, that is, of framing a policy which would be at once acceptable to the North and popular in the South. Mr. John Quincy Adams understands the temper of the North, and Jefferson Davis understands equally well the temper of the South. If only a "compromise" could be devised which would find favor in both sections of the country! But there is the rub. If the Democrats please the South, they offend the North, and any movement they make renders their prospects rather worse than they were before. Hence, as we have pointed out, they try to fill up the time by abusing General Grant, the man who chose to be faithful to his country, and who does not go about the country dropping hints about the probable revival of the "Lost Cause." The President, whom Jefferson Davis does not love, is not popular with any portion of the Democratic party. We sincerely hope that he never will be.

In the meanwhile, the people have no excuse for misunderstanding the sentiments of the Southern wing of the Democratic party. The other day at Augusta, Ga., "Hon. W. Hilliard" read an address to Mr. Davis, in the course of which he said: - "I do not now propose to review the dread drama that closed in the overthrow of the Southern cause. That is not a lost cause. It is the cause of constitutional liberty, and will yet triumph." In reply, Mr. Davis pointed out the necessity for being very cautious in the expression of their opinions, but he went quite far enough. He talked about "upholding the right of a State to withdraw from a voluntary compact." The "Lost Cause" was "dear to him-more precious even than life;" and, he added, "I glory in its remembrance." All this is very easily understood. The correspondent of a contemporary, who saw Mr. Davis "received" at Columbia, S. C., recently, says that the "Bonnie Blue Flag" was played when he appeared, and he adds:-

"All through the South the women cherish a love of the lost cause with a pertinacity that seems like a species of insanity, and the earliest instruction they give their children is to reverence the dead they give their children is to reverence the dead Confederacy, its flag, and its heroes, and to hate the Yankees and the very name of the United States. Even now, when six years have elapsed since the end of the war, these fanatics will not allow their children to play with the children of Northern people, and a Southern woman who ventures to asso-clate with the hated Yankees is denounced and ostracized by her friends as a renegade."

Now here are facts which cannot be twisted one way or the other by "radical" newspapers. They speak for themselves. They show what thousands of Democrats mean av speak of "restoring constitutional After all, the radical newspapers are not doing so much to expose the Democratic tactics as Mr. Jefferson Davis. Thanks to him, the people will know what they are about if they vote for a Democratic President at the next election. They will be voting for another war, and had better make up their

minds at the same time to pay the price of it. As for Jefferson Davis, in any other country but this, he would have been hanged long ago, and if traitors and rebels ever deserve to be hanged, Davis would not have suffered unjustly. No great revolution was ever seen before in which the leaders were allowed to escape, and permitted to go about the country afterwards mouthing sedition. There is such a thing as being too magnanimous-but supposing that it was all right to let Davis go, surely the country has some claim upon him in return for its generosity. General Lee set him a good example. From the sur-render at Appomattox to the day of his death, General Lee was never known to utter a word calculated to revive the wild delusion which brought such unparalleled disasters upon the South, or to injure the Government which had extended to him its forgiveness. But Davis is not a man capable of appreciating such an example as this. He must still go about, not satisfied with the awful mischief he has already wrought, scattering firebrands and arrows of death in his path. He has the inscience to complain of the "wrongs" he has endured from the Government. Has he ever asked himself what other Government but this would have spared his miserable life? And when all is said and done, what thanks do the Southern people owe to this man? Their affection for Jackson and Lee is at least comprehensible. But Davis never did them anything but harm. In the last days of the war, it was his fault that stores never reached Lee's army. From first to last he was an obdurate, selfconceited, incompetent leader. And now, forsooth, he is to be set up on a pedestal, and crowned with flowers, and worshipped as a hero.

Why? Merely because he represents the treasonable plans of 1861. Intelligent men in the South know that he is a blockhead. But they still believe in the principle of which Davis is a sort of embodiment. They like to hear him mumble promises of a revival of secession. The Southern Democrats would be only too charmed to have him as their candidate for the Presidency next year. And, in truth, if the people mean to elect a Democrat at all, they may as well take Jefferson Davis while they are about it—after getting him freed from political disabilities, in accordance with the advice given by several Republican journals. It is not enough that a man who is responsible for the sacrifice of tens of thousands of lives should still be free to spit out venom at the Government—he must be immediately rendered eligible to a seat in the Senate. After that, let us go a step further and put him in General Grant's place. If we are determined to have another rebellion on our hands, we may as well go the shortest way to work about it. That, at least, seems to be the opinion of some Republicans as well as Democrats.

SEX IN POLITICS. From the Pall Mall Gazette.

The arguments against the admission of women to the parliamentary franchise have, for the most part, taken the form of attempts to show that women are deficient in the qualities and capacities which, according to the nearly universal agreement of men, constitute political aptitude. The answer to this reasoning has consisted partly in a denial of the al-

women, and more than all in inferences from some theories in human nature which, so far as they apply at all, apply to female human beings as well as to males. There are, however, another set of considerations which in this country have neither been urged on one side nor answered on the other—those which have their basis not in the weakness but in the power of the other sex.

The removal of the disabilities of women

has ceased in some of the American States to looked upon in the half-serious light in which it is at best regarded here, and the prospect of having to deal with it as a practical question is evidently causing a great deal of annoyance not only to the men but to that great majority of women whom their agitating sisters have not taken the precau-tion to consult. But the discussion of the most probable results of giving women votes has sometimes turned in the United States not on conjectures as to what would be their influence in politics if they were plain, middle-aged, and clever, but on guesses as to what that influence would be if they were young, pretty, and no better nor worse intellectually than they are at present. A well-known American newspaper cites a recent case of competition among sculptors for the honor of executing a statue which is to be erected at the public expense. A young "sculptress," as the American phrase goes, was a candidate for the distinction, and, after personal canvass of the trustees, she was chosen. She was very good-looking and had a very charming manner and address, but she had never made a statue in all her life. The American journalist reasonably asks whether this practical illustration of feminine influence in a sphere of public activity does not suggest a great number of reflections. It is difficult to give the hint without the appearance of discourtesy, but have not all of us been a good deal affected, in the opinions which we have formed on the subject, by the accidental circumstance that the ladies who have come prominently forward to claim the franchise have had a good many of the powers which constitute the strength of men, and for the most part but a small share of the powers which constitute the strength of women? Amid the outcry which has been made concerning man's oppression of woman, it has been a little forgotten that woman has extraordinary influence over man. The literary advocates of the enfranchisement of the sex have strongly protested against the commonplace aphorisms, once greatly in vogue, which attribute to women every imaginable form of silliness and frivolity; but there are another set of long-descended commonplaces, made more honestly, and seriously framed by their first authors, which speak of the power of women and of its immeasurable consequences, If the nose of Cleopatra, says the most famous of these, had been a hair's breadth longer, the fortunes of the world would have been altered. What change has come over the influence of women since the beginning of history, except that it is infinitely subtler, wider, and more penetrating than it once was? The arts which made the Greek hero spin and the Jewish hero betray the secret of his strength are literally copied nowadays only by those who empty the pockets of the navvy new from his railway or of the sailor fresh from his voyage; but there is an ascending scale of attraction from that which conquers brutal coarseness to that which is irresistible to the highest intellectual refinement. It is some form of this inoccasi politician vote in the wrong lobby, or, by a more imperceptible operation, turns the prophet of a posteriori philosophy into the impulsive spokesman of a priori theorists.

The truth is, there are few more extraordinary phenomena of our day than the levity with which the advocates of woman's rights propose to introduce into political life a force of enormous but quite unknown intensity. We venture to assert that nobody has the faintest conception of what the true effects would be of giving women votes. To take an example suggested by those who advocate the step, we might perhaps have guessed what would have been the consequence of giving votes to male negroes. We might have predicted that the enfranchised slave would prove in politics a weak copy of his former master—that he would exhibit less political courage and capacity, but that his principles of action would be substantially the old ones. But there is not a shadow of probability that women, as politicians, would be the least like men. They have for ages in their own sphere been in possession of immense power, but it has been power of a very peculiar kind exercised in a very peculiar way. Nobody who has any idea of the wonderful skill with which families are managed, and at the same time of the nature of the influence which enables this skill to be exercised, can listen without amazement to the flimsy, haphazard arguments which usually second the proposal to give this particular form of ability the political world for its field. The materials for any sort of opinion on the point are as scanty as possible. All we can say is that when the springs of action which were at first confined to the interior of the family have at any time become motives of political conduct, the result has been serious, but very far from admirable. The patriarch, whose relations to his children constituted society in the beginning of things, has become in these latter days the pere de famille, who, according to Talleyrand, is capable de tout; and at least a century of English political history is filled with the records of shameless family jobbery. The present proposal is to give political power to the sex whose ideas and interests, ambi-

time been bound up with the family. Is there anybody who sincerely believes that female politicians would not job for their husbands, their sons, and their brothers? Is there anybody who would blame them for jobbing? Is there anybody who does not feel that a pernicious change would have come over society when they ceased to job? Men doubtless job now, sometimes most unblushingly, but still on the whole less than they did. But among the many results of admitting women to political privilege— most of them beyond all knowledge or conjecture-one certain consequence would be a vast addition to the influences which tend to cause public power to be abused for private, in the sense of family, objects. There is something curiously strange and even monstrous in the notion of a number of women sincerely putting forth all their energies for "the greatest happiness of the greatest number." But if it is doubtful whether the ends for which the public power of women would be used are likely to be those which on our present principles we think worthy of approbation, there is no doubt at all that the new class of politicians would bring with them a wholly new class of capacities for the attainment of their ends. It is quite possible, amid the ignorance with which we struggle on such subjects, to conceive the influence of women publicly exercised with the same excellence of intention with which leged facts, partly in appeals to certain aditis, on the whole, applied in the manage-missions already made by men concerning ment of the family. But it is really difficult

tion and cares, have hitherto from all

to reflect without misgiving on this influence being exerted in politics in the same mode and through the same instrumentalities. If we ever really come to this, all that can be said is that the world will probably witness refinements of bribery and novelties of corruption such as it has not dreamed of

DRIFT OF THE TIDE.

From the N. Y. Sun. No one who is in the habit of travelling in the British Provinces can fail to be impressed with the extraordinary progress which public sentiment in favor of annexation to the United States has made within a few years. This feeling is much stronger in Lower Canada than elsewhere, and there are many reasons why it should be so. There is less business transacted and less money in circulation in Lower Canada than in Upper Canada, with less demand for labor, and consequently more poverty. Lower Canada is inhabited generally by a French population. French is the language usually spoken, and the people have inherited the traditional French antipathy to England. An immense emigration from Lower Canada to the United States has been in progress for years, and the accounts sent back of the improved condition of those who have emigrated have served to create a favorable impression on the minds of those who have remained at home in regard to the United States and their institutions. A great majority of the people in Quebec and the country parishes in that part of the Province are to-day heartily in favor of annexation. Montreal is more prosperous, and the people in its vicinity are better contented with the present condition of affairs, though there are also large numbers of ardent annexationists. In Upper Canada there is not that discon-

tent with British rule manifested that is freely expressed in Lower Canada; but there are influences at work in favor of annexation which will eventually be very powerful. The opposition to any movement which could result in annexation includes politicians of both the Liberal and Conservative parties; pensioners and other beneficiaries of the English Government; the descendants of the Tories of the American Revolution who were driven out of the United States for their opposition to American independence; paupers and descendants of paupers who have been sent from Great Britain to Canada at the public expense; and the Irish Orangemen, who are numerous, and as a class intensely loyal to the British crown. When the new census is completed, Upper Canada expects to show a population equal to that of all the other provinces combined, and consequently to be abla to control the legislation of the whole Dominion, and its politicians hope to rule the country. For this reason they are generally

opposed to the idea of annexation. On the other hand, there is a large American element in the population of Upper Canada; many of the most enterprising business men are from the United States, and these are fully alive to the advantages which would result to Canada from admission to the American Union. Nearly all the Catholic Irish, who are abundant in all parts of Canada, are annexationists; if there was no other reason for such a sentiment, the fact that the Orangemen are opposed to it would be sufficient. The rural population, aside from the classes mentioned above, are generally in favor of the change; they are convinced that if annexation should take place, the introduction of American enterprise and methods would crease the value of their property, and render all classes more prosperous. This feeling has been gaining ground ever since the abrogation of the reciprocity treaty.

Throughout the lower provinces-Nova Scotia and New Brunswick-there is a strong and energetic party in favor of annexation. Under the terms of the Canadian Confederation, their representatives are in a hopeless minority, and their influence in the general legislation for the Dominion amounts to nothing. The people are dissatisfied and discontented with the new order of things; there are no important ties of trade or intercourse to attach them to the other provinces, while every instinct of self-interest would naturally induce them to desire annexation. Besides, the American Republic offers the most available market for their productions of every kind. These reasons for desiring a change increase in strength and add to the number of annexationists with each succeed-

It will be seen that the causes which have operated to excite a desire for annexation in the minds of Canadians must become more and more potent so long as the present state of affairs continues, while the obstacles in the way of such an event are constantly becoming less formidable. If the annexation feeling continues to gain in the future in the same ratio that has marked its progress for the last few years, it will not be long before it becomes too strong to be disregarded by those in power on the other side of the Atlantic.

MR. GREELEY FOR PRESIDENT.

From the N. Y. World.

If the politics of a free country are generally earnest and exciting, they have also their comic and even grotesque side; and as we are no enemies to honest mirth, we willingly entertain the idea of Mr. Greeley being the Republican candidate for President in the great campaign of 1872. His manners are at least as polished as were those of President Lincoln; his knowledge of public affairs and public men is at least equal to that of President Grant; and there was never a day when either Lincoln or Grant could vie with Mr. Greeley in personal popularity. There is no man who is so warmly applauded whenever he appears in any public gathering; there is no man whom such eager and curious multitudes throng to look at when he is advertised in the rural districts; there is no living man whose name has so long been a household word at so many American firesides. The idea of running Mr. Greeley for President may seem laughable to crafty politicians "hackneyed in the ways of men, but there are simple and honest multitudes of his fellow-citizens who will never be able

to see the point of the joke. If the Republican party will take our advice, they will nominate Mr. Greeley. No matter whom they may nominate they are booked to be beaten; and no candidate would so enliven the canvass and contribute so much to the public amusement as the venerable sage of Chappaqua. The campaign would open with a universal guffaw of jovial excitement. Every Democrat and every Republican would be high and hilarious. There would be no end to the jibes, and the jokes, and the funny lampoons, and the grotesque pictorial caricatures, and the comic campaign songs, with which the Presidential canvass would be enlivened. There would be a universal kicking up of heels and turning of somersaults. Since the Republican party is foredoomed to die in 1872, we can think of no way in which its euthanasia could contribute so much to general good humor. It would go out amid shouts of laughter. By all means give us Mr. Greeley for the Republican can-didate in 1872, and let his defeat inaugurate an "era of good feeling!" "Barkis is willin",

and it is a pity the politicians should not con-

In all seriousness, the Republican party is more indebted to Mr. Greeley than to any other man in the country. If gratitude and the recognition of past services are to control the nomination, his claims are infinitely superior to those of General Grant. It may indeed be said that notwithstanding his great eminence as a journalist, he has no peculiar qualifications for President. But this objection is a two-edged sword, which cuts both ways. It is altogether more fatal to the claims of General Grant than to those of Mr. Greeley. General Grant was not nominated on the score of fitness, but in sheer recognition of his dogged persistence as a military butcher. He had not the first qualification for any civil office. But Mr. Greeley has given the whole strength of his life to the consideration and discussion of political measures. It is not for the Republican party to question his wisdom when they have adopted and indorsed all his leading views. He has shaped all their political issues. He has pioneered the path in which the Republican party has followed. Take the great measure of all, that on which they pride themselves above all others, the emancipation of the slaves. It is absurd to credit Mr. Lincoln with that measure, into which he was reluctantly forced by a public opinion which Mr. Greeley had created. If gratitude and the recognition of past services are to control the Republican nomination for President, there is no comparison between Mr. Greeley and General Grant. And as to qualifications for the office, Mr. Greeley would at least make as respectable a figure as the stolid military sphinx who has not political ideas enough to supply him with the materials of a three minutes' speech. Crab-apples may not be the best kind of fruit; but a tree which every year bears a great crop of crab-apples is better worth cultivating than a tree which bears nothing.

Mr. Greeley was a noted man in American politics long before General Grant was even heard of. And there is none of General Grant's possible rivals for the Republican nomination who occupies half the space in the public eye which the editor of the Tribune has done for the last quarter of a century. If the Republican party wishes to die with grace and decency, let it at last do tardy justice to the man who has done more to shape its policy and achieve its success than any other citizen. To be sure, it is none of our funeral; but we may be pardoned for feeling the ordinary interest of spectators in the pomp and parade of the final obsequies. Mr. Greeley unequivocally signifies his willingness to be the Republican candidate if the party chooses to nominate him. Since he is willing to be led as a lamb to the slaughter, why should he be denied the crown of martyrdom?

He has some strong points as a candidate. He signed the bail bond of Jefferson Davis. He is a strenuous advocate of universal amnesty. In his present visit to the South he has courted Southern popularity by expressing the wish that Southern intelligence may control public affairs in that section. By nominating him the Republican party would purge itself from a great deal of past bigetry. Moreover, he is the great oracle of the protectionists, and all the protected interests would rally around him with enthusiastic fervor, and the monopolists would freely open their hearts and unloose their purse-strings to supply electioneering funds for the campaign. And "What I Know About Farming" would secure him the votes of many simple-minded agriculturists. He appeals to a great many feelings which General Grant cannot touch.

All joking and badinage apart, it is evident from Mr. Greeley's letter that he is stoutly opposed to the renomination of General Grant. He wants nobody nominated who is not "a steadfast, constant believer in the good old Whig doctrine of one Presidential term." The one-term principle of course rules out General Grant; but Mr. Greeley might with more propriety have called it the Confederate doctrine than "the good old Whig doctrine," as the Confederate constitution wisely forbade its President to be reelected. Mr. Greeley has been for several years adroitly trimming his sails to catch Southern popularity.

We wish him success in getting the Republican nomination; but if we thought there was the slightest chance of his election, we should probably be in no baste to exchange King Log for King Stork.

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